

WILLIAM EPHRAIM MIKELL

OWEN J. ROBERTS †

The whole Law School family, faculty, alumni, and students have suffered, corporately and individually, a severe loss in the death of William E. Mikell. And the profession has lost a leader in his chosen field of teaching and research. For forty-one years he was connected with the school, as Instructor, Assistant Professor, Professor, and Dean. Since his retirement the student body has had the privilege of his instruction, and the faculty the benefit of his counsel, well on to the time of his death.

His service to the University was long, honorable, and fruitful, and we who remain behind would be less than true to ourselves were we to omit acknowledgment of that service and expression of our loss.

As a young member of the bar of his native state,—South Carolina,—he came to Philadelphia in 1896, while I was still a student in the Law School. He came to write for *Pepper & Lewis' Digest*, which was then in preparation. I met him through association as a co-worker with him. In 1897 he was made an instructor and, in 1898, I became his colleague on the faculty and remained such for twenty years.

Mikell was a man of small physique, never robust, but surprisingly diligent and assiduous in his labors.

Of his intellectual qualities I need say little for most of those who will read these words have had the opportunity to observe them at first hand. Quick of apprehension, clear in discrimination and analysis, slow, but certain, in judgment, he possessed the cardinal qualities for research and teaching. His teaching was clear and incisive, and he was intolerant of lazy or loose thinking. His casebooks and his work embodied in *The Model Code of Criminal Procedure of The American Law Institute* bear sufficient testimony to the quality of his legal research.

But, for me, the matter most worthy of note was Mikell's sterling character, the fine and sensitive ethical attitude that marked his action as a man and pervaded as well his thinking on public and legal questions. He was uncompromising in views which he held once he had formed his judgment.

Enough has been said to demonstrate that we who knew him admired and loved him, and esteemed it a high privilege to have his friendship.

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